



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.8 percent for January 2002, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was up one-tenth of a percentage point from December 2001's rate of 4.7 percent, and up one and nine-tenths of a percentage point from January 2001's rate of 2.9 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from December to January by 1,400 individuals, while an increase of 200 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 11,800 in December to 12,000 in January. The decrease in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,200 individuals from December 2001 to January 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 10,400 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the January 2002 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: January 2002  
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for  
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,700	7,890	4.3	173,810
Adams	1,640	230	14.1	1,410
Boise	2,420	120	4.9	2,300
Canyon	69,310	4,070	5.9	65,240
Elmore	10,045	650	6.4	9,395
Gem	6,700	620	9.3	6,080
Owyhee	4,170	190	4.5	3,980
Payette	10,195	915	9.0	9,280
Valley	4,100	340	8.2	3,760
Washington	4,580	400	8.7	4,180
Statewide	691,570	39,270	5.7	652,300

Nearly 7,200 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were lost in the Boise City MSA between December 2001 and January 2002, with an increase of 700 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since January 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a loss of 1,400 jobs month-over-month with job losses in

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon counties**

	Jan 2002*	Dec 2001	Jan 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	251,700	252,900	241,300	-0.5	4.3
Unemployment	12,000	11,800	7,000	1.7	71.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.7	2.9		
Total Employment	239,700	241,100	234,300	-0.6	2.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	249,800	253,500	239,000	-1.5	4.5
Unemployment	14,100	12,400	8,700	13.7	62.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	4.9	3.6		
Total Employment	235,700	241,100	230,300	-2.2	2.3
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	225,400	232,600	224,700	-3.1	0.3
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	50,300	51,700	53,100	-2.7	-5.3
<b>Mining &amp; Construction</b>	15,400	16,400	15,300	-6.1	0.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	34,900	35,300	37,800	-1.1	-7.7
Durable Goods	26,600	26,900	29,500	-1.1	-9.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,000	3,100	3,000	-3.2	0.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	700	800	800	-12.5	-12.5
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,200	0.0	4.5
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,400	7,400	8,400	0.0	-11.9
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,600	11,800	13,200	-1.7	-12.1
Transportation Equipment	1,600	1,700	1,800	-5.9	-11.1
Other Durable Goods	1,900	1,800	1,900	5.6	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,400	8,300	-1.2	0.0
Food Processing	5,600	5,700	5,500	-1.8	1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,600	1,500	0.0	6.7
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	175,100	180,900	171,600	-3.2	2.0
<b>Trans, Comm, &amp; Public Util</b>	11,900	12,100	12,200	-1.7	-2.5
Transportation	6,700	6,900	6,800	-2.9	-1.5
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,200	5,200	5,400	0.0	-3.7
<b>Trade</b>	55,400	57,500	55,000	-3.7	0.7
Wholesale Trade	12,500	12,600	12,800	-0.8	-2.3
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,800	0.0	-1.3
Nondurable Goods	4,800	4,900	5,000	-2.0	-4.0
Retail Trade	42,900	44,900	42,200	-4.5	1.7
General Merchandise Stores	5,600	6,200	5,400	-9.7	3.7
Foods Stores	7,500	7,600	7,400	-1.3	1.4
Eating & Drinking Places	15,100	15,600	14,700	-3.2	2.7
Other Retail Trade	14,700	15,500	14,700	-5.2	0.0
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	11,600	11,800	11,200	-1.7	3.6
<b>Services</b>	61,200	62,800	59,800	-2.5	2.3
Business Services	13,900	15,100	15,400	-7.9	-9.7
Health Services	18,900	18,900	17,500	0.0	8.0
Hospitals	8,900	8,900	8,100	0.0	9.9
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	5,200	5,100	4,900	2.0	6.1
Other Services	23,200	23,700	22,000	-2.1	5.5
<b>Government</b>	35,000	36,700	33,400	-4.6	4.8
Federal Government	5,000	5,300	4,900	-5.7	2.0
State Government	12,500	13,800	12,200	-9.4	2.5
Education	3,600	4,800	3,400	-25.0	5.9
Administration	8,900	9,000	8,800	-1.1	1.1
Local Government	17,500	17,600	16,300	-0.6	7.4
Education	11,500	11,700	10,800	-1.7	6.5
Administration	6,000	5,900	5,500	1.7	9.1

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

*Construction & Mining* (1,000) *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (100), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (200), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100), and *Food Processing Manufacturing* (100) outpacing job gains in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100) to create the net decrease. Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 2,800 jobs with *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes Manufacturing* (100), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,000), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,600), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (200), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100) outpacing job gains in *Construction & Mining* (100), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100), and *Food Processing Manufacturing* (100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in that industry since January 2001.

*Service-Producing Industries* lost 5,800 jobs between December 2001 and January 2002. Job decreases in *Transportation* (200), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (600), *Food Stores* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (500), *Other Retail Trade* (800), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (200), *Business Services* (1,200), *Other Services* (500), *Federal Government* (300), *State Government Education* (1,200), *State Government Administration* (100), and *Local Government Education* (200) outpaced job gains in *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (100), and *Local Government Administration* (100) to create the net decrease in the number of jobs in the Boise City MSA over the month. Over the past year, there was an increase of 3,500 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with *Transportation, Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services; Durable Goods Trade; Nondurable Goods Trade; and Business Services* the only industries to experience job losses. The most notable job gains over the year were noted in *Health Services* (1,400), primarily *Hospitals* (800), and *Other Services* (1,200).

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- Jim Tomlinson and First United Methodist Church entered into a joint venture to create a \$16.5 million, 148,000-square-foot parking and apartment complex on the corner of Eleventh and Hays Streets in Boise. Cathedral Place will include 176 market-rate apartments, mostly one-bedroom units, as well as 600 parking spaces. The vision of this project is to address two core problems, the lack of parking around the Cathedral of the Rockies, and the fact that increasing numbers of people are moving away from downtown Boise. Construction financing has not

been finalized on the project and a zoning change is needed to proceed. Tentative plans for the project are for construction to begin in spring 2003 and to be completed in fall 2004.

- Site preparation has begun in Boise along Front Street at Broadway Avenue for Idaho Place, a new higher education complex that will include the University of Idaho and Idaho State University Treasure Valley Programs. The \$140 million, 535,154-square-foot campus also will house a water research facility, an office, and retail space. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring and conclude in 2003.
- WhiteWater Pizza & Pasta opened in the Meridian Crossroads Shopping Plaza in February. The restaurant features gourmet pizzas, pasta dishes, sandwiches, salads, appetizers, desserts, beer, wine, and other beverages. The restaurant is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Carry out, take-and-bake pizzas, and delivery within a three-mile radius (for orders more than \$10) is offered from 11 a.m. until closing.
- George's Cycles held a grand opening in February for its newest store on the corner of East First Street and Pine in Meridian. The business offers a full range of mountain bikes, kids' bikes, family bikes, road bikes, BMXs, three-wheelers, cruisers, recumbent bikes, clothing, accessories, trailers, treadmills, home gyms, and exercise bikes.
- The Pine Business Center, located at 211 East Pine Avenue in downtown Meridian, celebrated its grand opening in early February. The businesses located in the Business Center include: Snake River Management, whose goal is to enhance the aesthetic appeal of a subdivision while maintaining the fiscal management of the homeowners' association; Clear Choices Skin Care & Electrolysis, which offers electrolysis as well as a variety of other services; Mountain West Business Solutions, which connects customers with technology and is designed to meet all customer cartridge, printing, and printer servicing needs; and Penton Law Offices, which specializes in helping small businesses survive and thrive.
- A new science center will be built on a 10-acre parcel of land owned by the Meridian School District in a joint venture between the Meridian School District and the Boise Parks and Recreation Department. The \$500,000, 3,000-square-foot science center will feature a rare desert wetlands ecosystem. The proposed center will allow students from Boise and Meridian to study the habitat of ducks, geese, songbirds, reptiles, and small mammals that live there. No start or completion dates were announced.

- St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center recently announced plans to begin construction on the first phase of its Meridian center in April. The 43,000-square-foot medical office and outpatient surgery center facility will be built on an eight-acre site on the southeast corner of Cherry Lane and Ten Mile Road. The \$11 million, first phase of the project will be completed by spring 2003.
- Pioneer Federal Credit Union recently celebrated the opening of its newest branch at 560 East State Street in Eagle. Pioneer Federal provides a full-service line of financial products and services. Members of the credit union must live, work, or attend school in the same county as the Pioneer branch.
- The Eagle Planning and Zoning Commission voted in late January to approve the proposal for a Hilton Garden Inn Hotel. Now the Eagle City Council has to approve the proposal before construction can begin on the project. Eagle River Hospitality, LLC is requesting a conditional use permit to construct the 45-foot hotel and a 48-foot chimney. The developers anticipate an April construction start date with completion planned for January 2003.
- Mobility Electronics, Inc. of Arizona recently purchased Portsmouth, Inc. The \$4.1 million deal includes \$1.1 million in Mobility Electronics stock that will go to the employee-owned Portsmouth workers. The other \$3 million will go to cancel a debt owed by Portsmouth. Portsmouth, a Boise company, will keep its name and continue to operate independently in Boise. Portsmouth provides a range of Ethernet, modem, and other connectivity products for handheld devices; the partnership with Mobility gives the company an opportunity to grow.
- Veratron, a Boise company, is currently involved in a new technology that features voice recognition and authentication software that could change the way that wireless transactions are made. Company officials say that the new technology is more secure and defeats Internet fraud by eliminating the need to send private information over the phone/Internet line. Veratron's role in this new technology is to provide biometric technology—or technology that uses an individual's biology, such as voice recognition. A demonstration of this technology was unveiled at Palm's annual conference in San Jose in early February. Veratron was established in May 2001 and started shipping products in March 2002.
- Micron Technology, Inc. sold all 58.6 million shares of Interland, Inc. stock in February. Micron and Interland worked together to find a solution in which six institutional investors purchased the majority of the Interland shares owned by the Micron Foundation. The Micron Technology Foundation now has additional money to invest in a more diversified portfolio. The Micron Technology Foundation is a charitable organization that funds education and community programs. The increase in cash could mean a large impact for Idaho since the foundation gives a large portion of its grants and awards to state organizations and schools. In other Micron Technology related information there is still a possibility of a deal between Micron Technology and Hynix, although no official announcement has been made regarding the possible alliance.
- ZiLOG officials made a statement to the press in early February stating that the company will continue to operate the manufacturing plant in Nampa. ZiLOG, headquartered in San Jose, employs approximately 800 people. Several hundred of the employees work at the Nampa plant, which is the company's only manufacturing plant since ZiLOG consolidated all of its Idaho operations under one plant in early February. The company is currently seeking approval of a prepackaged bankruptcy filing as part of the debt reorganization plan, which should be finalized during the second quarter of 2002. Under the proposed plan, all existing debt and stock of the company will be canceled, and its unsecured creditors, including its trade creditors, will be paid in full.
- The Caldwell Economic Development Council has chosen Al Ames as its new executive director, with Jan de Weerd as Al's assistant. Both Al and Jan are excited about the development projects scheduled for the next two years, which include the development of Indian Creek and a new development center that will be located in the Skyway Industrial Park off Highway 20-26. Al and Jan's job duties include attracting new business and assisting existing businesses, with a heavy focus on marketing. Al and Jan were introduced to the community at a reception in late February on the Albertson College of Idaho Campus.
- The Community Family Shelter in Nampa celebrated its grand opening in February. The \$1.2 million shelter provides 56 beds for homeless families, children, and single women in the Nampa area. The shelter's goal is to help homeless women and families re-establish self-sufficiency as well as offer a safe place to stay; a wide range of supportive services will be made available to clients to help them find permanent housing and jobs. In addition, the shelter's dining area will serve breakfast and lunch six days each week to both residents of the shelter and low-income nonresidents.
- The Canyon County Planning and Zoning Commission granted a conditional-use permit for Charlie Pintler's Desert Sun Farms to operate a 6,500-cow dairy in an agricultural zone, located at 13541 Surrey

Lane, south of Lake Lowell. There was one commissioner with concerns about the project, and opponents to the proposed dairy farm may appeal the decision to the Canyon County Planning & Zoning Commission.

- Construction started on a Sunrise Café on East First Street in downtown Middleton. The \$300,000, 4,200-square-foot, facility, the fifth Sunrise restaurant in the Treasure Valley, will seat 132 customers. The newest Sunrise restaurant is scheduled to open in early April.

#### **Boise County**

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort announced in late February that advanced sale season passes would remain at \$199 for the 2002-2003 season. The resort also celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the upcoming season. The \$199 price is good from March 1, 2002 to April 15, 2002. The \$199 price is for skiers and riders between ages 12 and 69. Children aged 7 to 11 can ski or ride all season for \$29; children 6 and under and people aged 70 and over are free. A family pass is available for \$799, regardless of the number of children. The passes purchased between now and April 15 will allow the pass-holder to ski/ride the rest of this season as well as next season. Bogus Basin officials also have released a statement stating that the resort is considering the installation of a scanning system for lift passes after the influx of fake passes found this year; the system will help eliminate the fakes by scanning a barcode or other identifier.

#### **Elmore County**

- The Mountain Home School District announced plans to close Stephensen Middle School on the Mountain Home Air Force Base this summer. Budget cuts and a declining student population were cited as reasons for the closure. The sixth grade students that are leaving Stephensen will attend Liberty Elementary School on the base, while the seventh-graders will be bused to Hacker Middle School in Mountain Home. Hacker Middle School will have to undergo some expansion to deal with the 8 percent growth that will occur as a result of the closure. Closing Stephensen will save the school district about \$200,000.

#### **Payette County**

- Construction started on a new apartment complex in Payette. The Brandon Bay Apartments, located between Twelfth Street and South Main Street, will include 28 separate apartments that will be available for rent to Payette residents; the establishment will offer subsidized housing for families. The complex features seven buildings including six apartment

buildings and one community building. There will be four one-bedroom/one-bath units, sixteen two-bedroom/one-bath units, and eight three-bedroom/two-bath units. The grounds will be landscaped, and there will be a playground for children; the community building will include a business center, laundry facilities, and a community room for use by the residents. The new complex is scheduled for completion by June 1, 2002.

#### **Valley County**

- More than 200 people attended the State of Idaho Land Board public hearing in February regarding the proposed WestRock Resort. The Land Board listened to ten hours of testimony from developers, department heads, and community members regarding the \$1.2 billion resort proposal. The State Land Board still has to make a decision on whether or not to allow the lease of public land to the developers of WestRock. The Land Board did not make a decision on this issue at its February meeting.
- The McCall Ice Rink and Events Center received \$58,000 in donations since January, according to foundation officials. The donations came from a plethora of sources including individuals, businesses, and foundations. The foundation has now raised \$5.6 million toward the construction of the ice rink and events center. The \$5.6 million includes \$575,000 in the value of land donated by the Shaver family and a \$400,000 grant received in 2001 from the Idaho Department of Commerce. Ron Sabala, head of the Richard J. Sabala Memorial Foundation, said that the foundation is currently soliciting construction bids for the project, which should begin this spring.

#### **Washington County**

- In late February, the Weiser City Council voted to start negotiations to purchase the Weiser Pump & Pipe building, located across from Weiser City Hall. Once a price has been negotiated, the city council will meet again to decide whether or not to purchase the property. A number of possible uses were cited for the building, but no specific plan was made.

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